

~~SECRET SPOKE~~

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R66-63 ARMY'S IN CUBA PLACED ON ALERT STATUS

[R]

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CUBAN NAVAL COMMUNICATIONS

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THIS DOCUMENT IS VERY UNCLEAR AND HARD TO READ

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[R] - ITEM IS RESTRICTED

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2/0 [REDACTED] 1963-63

All subordination of the First Army Headquarters in both Eastern and Southeastern Oriente were placed in an alert state at 2320Z on 22 November 1963 (2/LRL [REDACTED] R157-63).

The urgent need of food at the Pilon (probably 19-58N 77-19W) Coastal Battalion was revealed in a message from the Chief, South Sector, Sierra Maestra Headquarters, Pilon, to Chief of Services, First Army Headquarters, on 23 November 1963 (2/LRL [REDACTED] 1963-63).

#### PART III B: CUBAN NAVAL COMPLICATIONS

One of the KOMAR-class PCMs, the KC-250, has suffered one of the first accidents involving a KOMAR vessel in Cuba. At approximately 0800Z on 26 November the KC-250 ran aground while entering the port of Mariel, sustaining uncontrollable leaks. Salvage vessels sent to the scene included the GC-59, KC-11, and LV-28; they were estimated to have worked until 2213Z, when it was reported salvage operations were complete (2/QSA [REDACTED] 1963-63 and 2/SL [REDACTED] R35-63). The KC-250 is now in drydock, presumably at Mariel (2/QSA [REDACTED] R129-63).

A Cuban motorship named the INDALNCIO was forced by passengers to put into the Guantanamo Naval Base on 26 November. Four persons aboard the vessel were reported to have taken asylum at the base but a reliable collateral source states that 15 persons remained at the base and four others returned with the INDALNCIO. The vessel was escorted by a destroyer to the canal leading to Caimanera (19-59N 75-09W) from the Naval Base (2/LRL [REDACTED] R190, 186-63 and 2/QSA [REDACTED] 1963-63). A later report disclosed that 12 passengers and 5 crewmen, including the ship's captain, remained at the Guantanamo Naval Base (2/LRL [REDACTED] R191-63).

An alert which began on 22 November in Oriente Province was apparently prompted by the death of President KENNEDY. While no orders or directives have been noted canceling the alert, there were indications that it probably was to terminate on 25 November. On 23 November instructions were passed from bases to a subordinate unit that leaves could be granted to 25 percent of its personnel (2/0 [REDACTED] R54-63 and 2/0 [REDACTED] R196-63).

The USNS JOSEPH E. MULLER, TAC-171, has been the subject of recurring Cuban reports concerning its position. These reports have been noted being passed from Havana to Caimanera, the KOMAR-class PCM Headquarters. The reports were first noted in September and have continued until November (2/0 [REDACTED] R193-63).

The Caimanera Naval Base was informed on 23 November by Naval Headquarters in Havana that there would be exercises scheduled from 23 to 30 November in the Bay West area by U.S. aircraft. The exercises would include pyrotechnical and lateral firing, air to ground firing and illumination practices. The information was reported to have been obtained "by our sources." These sources were not identified (2/LL [REDACTED] R30-63).